

Message Text

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UNCLAS PORT LOUIS 0325

LONDON FOR HAVERKAMP

E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: BRITISH DEFENSE SECRETARY MASON'S COMMUNIQUE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE ISSUED APRIL 26 DURING UK SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENSE ROY MASON'S VISIT APRIL 24-27:
QTE: THE BRITISH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENSE, THE RT. HON. ROY MASON, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, HIS PARLIAMENTARY PRIVATE SECRETARY, AND OFFICIALS FROM THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, ARRIVED IN MAURITIUS 24 APRIL IN RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION FROM THE PRIME MINISTER, DR. THE RT. HON. SIR SEEWOOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM. MR. AND MRS. MASON, WHO WILL BE LEAVING MAURITIUS ON 27 APRIL, ARE THE GUESTS OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL AT LE REDUIT.

DURING HIS VIST MR. MASON HAS TOURED HMS MAURITIUS AND MET MANY OF THE PERSONNEL SERVING THERE.

ON 25 APRIL MR. MASON AND MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION, TOGETHER
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WITH THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER, HAD EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH

THE PRIME MINISTER ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. ALSO PARTICIPATING IN THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE MAURITIAN SIDE WERE THE HONORABLE SIR VEERASAMY RINGADOO, MINISTER OF FINANCE, THE HONORABLE SIRE ABDUL RAZAK MOHAMED, MINISTER OF HOUSING, LANDS AND TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING, THE HON. A.H.M. OSMAN, MINISTER OF WORKS, THE HON. R. JOMADAR, ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE, DR. THE HON. B. GHURBURRUN, MINISTER OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, AND THE HON. K. JAGATSINGH, MINISTER OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.

MR. MASON EXPLAINED THE BACKGROUND TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S DEFENSE POLICY AND WHY IT HAD COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT IT NO LONGER REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES ON MAURITIUS.

IT WAS AGREED THAT HMS MAURITIUS SHOULD BE CLOSED AT THE END OF MARCH 1976 AND THAT ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN TO TERMINATE AT THAT TIME THE ANGLO-MAURITIAN AGREEMENT OF MUTUAL DEFENSE AND ASSISTANCE. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT THE QUESTION OF DISPOSAL OF ASSETS AFTER THE CLOSURE OF HMS MAURITIUS SHOULD BE EXAMINED IN DETAIL BY OFFICIALS OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE AGREEMENT.

MR. MASON UNDERTOOK THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER SYMPATHETICALLY REQUESTS FROM THE MAURITIAN GOVERNMENT TO TAKE OVER CERTAIN ASSETS AS GOING CONCERNS. HE ALSO EXPLAINED THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S GENERAL POSITION ON THE PAYMENT OF REDUNDANCY BENEFITS TO MAURITIAN EMPLOYEES WHO WOULD LOSE THEIR JOBS AS A RESULT OF THE CLOSURE OF HMS MAURITIUS.

MR. MASON ASSURED THE MAURITIAN GOVERNMENT OF THE WILLINGNESS OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SERVICE PERSONNEL ON LOAN TO THE SPECIAL MOBILE FORCE. UNQTE.
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